



# CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

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NEWS RELEASE  
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## *New Working Groups to Tackle Housing and Economic Development in Act 47*

READING, PA - The City of Reading announced today that two groups will hold introductory meetings next week to devise strategies for housing and economic development as part of the City's Act 47 Recovery Plan. The Act 47 Recovery Plan calls for the formation of a housing working group and the convening of an economic development partnership and specifies the need for public dialogue and diversity.

"As we journey on a complex road to financial recovery and long-term community stability, it is vital to have public participation in the ongoing planning and discourse as subsequent actions will impact the City for years to come." Explains Mayor Thomas M. McMahon, "We want to make sure City residents have a voice in this, and we hope the public will seize this opportunity to play a part from the beginning."

The housing working group will work to devise a housing strategy that includes clearly defined objectives, steps to achieve these objectives, and performance measurements to track the City's success in pursuing them. The economic development partnership will bring together key stakeholders to address the core question of what policies Reading can put into place to strengthen the city's tax base and attract investment and people.

Each meeting will begin with a presentation by Development Coordinator John Kromer, followed by comments from participants and discussion about how best to continue a public dialogue about the design of housing and economic development strategies for Reading.

The schedule for the introductory meetings is as follows.

- A Housing information and discussion session will be held on **Tuesday, November 16 in City Council Chambers, from 7:00 to 8:15 P.M.**
- An economic development information and discussion session will be held on **Wednesday, November 17 in City Council Chambers, from 7:00 to 8:15 P.M.**

Anyone who would like more information beforehand should feel free to contact Development Coordinator John Kromer at [jkromer@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jkromer@sas.upenn.edu).

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